

MAY 1958

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INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SURVEY  
OF THE  
OFFICE OF BASIC INTELLIGENCE

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I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

A. This survey of the Office of Basic Intelligence (OBI) was made at the specific request of the Deputy Director, Intelligence. This is the first survey of the Office of Basic Intelligence since it was established as an independent office; however, essentially the same unit was inspected as part of the survey of the Office of Research and Reports in 1954.

B. Interviews were held with all of the officers and slightly over 50 per cent of the total personnel of OBI. Also, interviews were held with the printers of the National Intelligence Survey (NIS), which is the product of OBI; the coordinators of the NIS material contributed by the various United States Government departments; and with the users of the NIS, i.e., principally the Department of State, the Defense Department components, and CIA.

C. The subjects covered in this survey were the mission and functions of OBI, its personnel, management, administration, cost, and the quality and use of the NIS.

II. MISSION AND FUNCTIONS OF OBI

A. The OBI mission is to implement the responsibilities placed upon the DCI by NSCID No. 3, approved by the NSC on 21 April 1958, namely: to coordinate and maintain production of the NIS; to edit, publish and disseminate the NIS; and to perform research and related activities in the field of basic intelligence as directed.

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of 9 December 1955, gives direction to the implementation of the aforementioned NSCID No. 3, through OBI, and IAC-D-45/12 of 27 December 1957 governs the dissemination of the NIS.

B. OBI was operated as a Division of ORR until 1955 when it attained its present status. Its functions are essentially to administer the NIS program in accordance with applicable provisions of the above-mentioned NSC, IAC, and CIA directives. It is guided in its work by the NIS Committee, consisting of a representative of the DCI as Chairman, who in this case is the AD/OBI, representatives of the intelligence components of State, Army, Navy, Air Force, and an advisory member from the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Thus NIS requirements, priorities, scope, and production schedules are set in accord with the needs of the principal beneficiaries of the NIS.

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Approved For Release 2005/03/15 : CIA-RDP62-01094R000100020007-9

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Approved For Release 2005/03/15 : CIA-RDP62-01094R000100020007-9